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Summary of CALFED's Plan

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program's Framework for California's Water Future set forth a long-term plan to address ecosystem and water supply reliability problems in the Bay-Delta. The Plan laid out specific actions and proposed investments over the first seven years (Stage 1) to meet Program goals and assure a balanced approach to implementation.

The following summarizes specific programs and actions identified in the Plan.

Objective: Water Supply Reliability

CALFED agencies will undertake a number of interim and long-term actions to improve water supply reliability for agricultural and urban users. Actions include:

- Establishment of an Environmental Water Account (EWA) with 380,000 acre-feet of water set aside annually to protect species and maintain deliveries to water users when Delta exports are curtailed.
- Allocation of Proposition 13 state bond funds for water supply and water quality projects.
- Implementation of conjunctive management projects, water conservation measures and water transfers, as described in other program areas.
- Development of water management tools such a joint point of diversion, operational flexibility, interagency cooperation, conservation, groundwater storage and land retirement, in partnership with affected users and stakeholders, to meet water supply targets for south of Delta Central Valley Project (CVP) agricultural water contractors.
- Development of a drought contingency plan.

Storage

CALFED agencies will pursue actions to expand storage capacity at existing reservoirs and strategically located offstream sites by 950,000 acre-feet. Agencies also will evaluate other potential storage projects and implement a major expansion of groundwater storage with local partners for an additional 500,000 to 1 million acre-feet. Key actions include:

- Surface storage studies, including Sites reservoir, Shasta enlargement, Los Vaqueros expansion, In-Delta storage and additional storage in the San Joaquin River watershed
- Development of locally managed and controlled groundwater and conjunctive use projects in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys with a total of 500,000 to 1 million acre-feet of additional storage capacity.
- Promotion of basin-wide groundwater management planning, with future state funding for water programs conditioned on the development of local groundwater management plans.

Conveyance
CALFED agencies will optimize water conveyance facilities in the Delta to improve water supply reliability for in-Delta and export users, support continuous improvement in drinking water quality and complement ecosystem restoration. Actions include:

South Delta improvements

- Increased pumping at State Water Project (SWP) facilities from current limit of 6,680 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 8,500 cfs and eventually to 10,300 cfs.
- Design and construction of new fish screens at Clifton Court Forebay and Tracy pumping plant.
- Development of Tracy Fish Test Facility.
- Dredging and installation of permanent operable barriers to improve water flows and water quality in the South Delta.
- Construction of a bypass canal to the San Felipe Unit at San Luis Reservoir, with potential added storage of up to 200,000 acre-feet.
- San Joaquin flood control / ecosystem restoration.
- Reduction of agricultural drainage in the Delta.
- CVP/SWP intake intertie and aqueduct intertie

North Delta Improvements

- Improved operational procedures for Delta Cross Channel to address fishery and water quality concerns.
- Evaluation of a screened through-Delta facility on the Sacramento River.
- Design and construction of flood control / ecosystem improvements on the lower Mokelumne River.

Water Transfers
CALFED agencies will promote development of an effective water transfer market that protects water rights, the environment and local economies. Actions include:

- Increased availability of existing facilities for water transfers.
- Development of streamlined transfer approval process for certain kinds of transactions.
- Establishment of On-Tap website with real-time information on transfer opportunities and activity.
- Establishment of Water Transfers Information Clearinghouse by end of 2001 to disseminate information on groundwater impacts and local socioeconomic impacts of transfers.

Water Use Efficiency
CALFED agencies will implement an aggressive water-use efficiency program to make the best use of existing water supplies. Actions include:

- Annual water conservation and recycling competitive grant / loan program.
- Refinement of quantifiable objectives for agricultural water use efficiency.
- Definition of appropriate water measurement.
- Certification process for urban best management practices (BMPs).

Objective: Ecosystem Restoration / Watershed Management

Ecosystem Restoration

Using a science-based approach, CALFED agencies will invest in a comprehensive effort to restore the ecological health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. ERP actions include:

- Annual grant program to fund local projects in habitat restoration, fish passage, invasive species management and environmental water quality.
- Habitat restoration in the Delta, Suisun Bay and Marsh, and Yolo Bypass.
- Recovery of state and federally protected species.
- Large-scale restoration projects on selected tributaries.
- Streamflow augmentation in upstream areas through voluntary water purchases.
- Fish passage improvements through modification or removal of dams.
- Integrated flood management and ecosystem restoration.
- Environmental water program to acquire up to 100,000 acre-feet annually for salmon.

Watersheds

CALFED agencies will promote locally led watershed management activities for flood management, ecosystem restoration, water quality improvements and water supply reliability. Funding priorities include:

- Watershed protection and restoration grants
- Technical assistance to local communities for watershed protection
- Building local capacity to support implementation of watershed projects

Environmental Water Account

CALFED agencies will manage Environmental Water Account assets to protect fish while maintaining deliveries to water users. The agencies commit to ensuring there will be no additional reductions in Bay-Delta exports due to endangered species issues for the first four years of Stage 1. Actions include:

- Acquisition of 380,000 acre-feet of water annually for EWA use.
- Development of source-shifting agreements with south-of-Delta water providers for 100,000 acre-feet of water.
- Annual scientific review of EWA actions.

Objective: Water Quality

CALFED agencies will pursue a mix of programs that improve water quality for more than 22 million Californians who rely on Delta water. Actions include:

- Development and implementation of source control and drainage management programs.
- Investment in treatment technology projects.

- Development of Bay Area Blending and Exchange Program (now known as Water Quality and Supply Reliability Program) to enable Bay Area water districts to cooperatively address water quality and reliability concerns.
- Implementation of aggressive measures to improve Delta water quality for agricultural users.
- Facilitation of efforts to develop alternative sources of supply for Southern California.
- Improvement of dissolved oxygen conditions in the San Joaquin River near Stockton.

Objective: Levee System Integrity

CALFED agencies will improve levees to protect Delta resources and encourage habitat. Actions include:

- Funding for local reclamation districts to reconstruct all Delta levees to a base level of protection.
- Enhancement of levee stability on levees of particular importance to the Delta system.
- Development of Best Management Practices for beneficial reuse of dredged material.
- Refinement of Delta Emergency Management Plan and development of a Delta Risk Management Strategy to identify risks to Delta levees, evaluate consequences and recommend actions.

Science

CALFED agencies will incorporate the best-available scientific knowledge into all CALFED activities and decisions. Actions include:

- Appointment of lead scientist and an expert panel to integrate objective scientific review into all program areas.
- Refinement of predictive models and establishment of performance measures to inform and guide adaptive management.
- Establishment of Science Consortium to share information and resources.